



# MEDIA RELEASE

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**12 July 2011**

## **Bringing Housing Experts Together in Tasmania**

Bringing Housing Together is a Forum on Affordable Housing to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July in Hobart. This 2 day forum organised by Shelter Tasmania for the Community Sector brings together key housing stakeholders and experts from around the country.

“The need for more affordable housing is not an issue exclusive to Tasmanians but one which is ongoing at a national level. It is hoped that the Forum will provide the opportunity to gain knowledge about what is happening in other states, hear about best practice in the community housing sector and develop an understanding for a way forward for Tasmania.” said Shelter Tasmania’s Executive Officer Pattie Chugg.

“Shelter’s members work with people who are homeless or at risk on a daily basis due to the chronic lack of affordable housing. We know there is a shortage of public housing with over 3,000 people on the waiting list. In addition, private rental is in short supply with less than a 3% vacancy rate across the state, and many of those properties too expensive for people on low to medium incomes.” Ms Chugg reported.

This Forum will look at Community Housing as another important housing option for Tasmania.

“Community Housing provides flexibility and diversity in the market and can specialise in housing for the aged, youth or people with disabilities and those with extra support needs. It can also offer mixed tenure that enables people on a range of incomes to live in the one location. All of these models offer long term, affordable housing which is what we really need here in Tasmania”.

Shelter Tasmania is the Peak Body for Not for Profit Housing and Homeless Services across Tasmania for more information see [www.shelertas.org.au](http://www.shelertas.org.au) We would like to thank the Department of Health and Human Services for providing funding for this event.

**For further information contact Pattie Chugg**

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